

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 /080 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:BBELL:JZ

APPROVED BY ARA/PAF:BBELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 107687

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CU

SUBJECT: CUBA POLICY

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR MAY 8 NOON PRESS
BRIEFING:

Q: WHAT COMMENTS DO YOU HAVE CONCERNING CASTRO'S STATEMENTS
CALLING FOR A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AS FAR AS FOOD AND
MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE CONCERNED?

A: OUR POSITION ON THE TRADE EMBARGO REMAINS THE SAME.
WHEN AND IF THE OAS LIFTS THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED UNDER THE
RIO TREATY, THEN AND ONLY THEN, WILL THE UNITED STATES
CONSIDER CHANGES IN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND IN
OUR REGULATIONS GOVERNING TRADE WITH CUBA.

I MIGHT ADD, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE SUPPLIED CUBA WITH OTHER-
WISE UNOBTAINABLE MEDICINE OVER THE YEARS THE EMBARGO HAS
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BEEN IN EFFECT AND ALSO PERMITTED INDIVIDUAL FOOD PACKAGES

TO BE SENT TO CUBA.

Q: DO YOU CONSIDER THIS A SIGNAL FROM CASTRO THAT HE IS
SOFTENING HIS STAND TOWARD THE U.S.?

A: I DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE HIS STATEMENT IN THIS WAY.
HOWEVER, WE DID NOTE THE MODERATE TONE OF THE STATEMENT.
AS SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID IN HIS HOUSTON SPEECH "WE SEE NO
VIRTUE IN PERPETUAL ANTAGONISM BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND CUBA" BUT A READINESS TO ASSUME MUTUALITY OF OBLIGA-
TION IS THE BASIS FOR ANY NEW RELATIONSHIP. (END PREPARED
GUIDANCE.)

2. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE ABOVE IN YOUR RESPONSES TO QUES-
TIONS REGARDING CASTRO'S PRESS CONFERENCE. KISSINGER

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